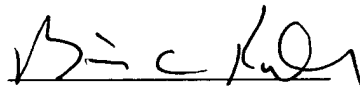


REMARKS

The application was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. The Examiner relied primarily on ~~U.S. Patent Number 6,622,168 issued to Anindya Datta on September 16, 2003. Submitted~~ herewith is a declaration of the inventor under 37 CFR 1.131 antedating this reference. In the declaration, the inventor declares that the invention was reduced to practice prior to the issue date of the prior art reference. Additionally, the inventor was diligent in filing the patent application from that date until the actual filing date of October 12, 2000.

Absent the Datta reference, the §103 rejection should all be withdrawn, as each rejection of the claims relies on the Datta patent for essential elements of the §103 rejection. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection be withdrawn and this case be promptly allowed. In the event any questions or concerns remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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